7-day Course in Estonia

Study Visit to Schools in Estonia

Tallinn (Estonia)

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This structured course is designed for **teachers, head teachers, principals and other school staff** who would like to learn about the Estonian education system within the context of Estonian culture. Although the pedagogic encounters with schools are focused on **Primary and Secondary** levels, other educational sectors may also benefit from the general approach of this course.

Language of communication: **English**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our **7-Day Course** is for those who want to learn about Estonian education and culture through a combination of pedagogic encounters with schools, seminars, field learning projects and workshops. English Matters will select educational institutions related to Primary and Secondary levels. Participants will learn about educational organisation and management of learning and will have the opportunity to share their experience and ideas with colleagues from a variety of schools around the world.

The course offers several **key activities**:

1. Pedagogic encounters with schools to learn about educational organization and management of learning.
2. Seminars and workshops to explore specific aspects of the education system and culture of Estonia.
3. Professional and cultural discussion resulting in a concluding presentation of learning.
4. Field learning projects to explore places of natural, historical, and cultural significance, as a basis for the development of teaching materials to assist their students in meeting their learning goals and be aware of the socio-cultural richness of Europe.

Objectives:

- Become familiar with relevant aspects of the Estonian education system.
- Learn about examples of teaching practices in schools in Estonia.
- Participate in seminars and workshops related to educational and cultural aspects of Estonian society.
- Participate in field learning projects to places of natural, historical, and cultural significance, to support the development of teaching resources.

This **7-Day Course in Estonia** will allow you to experience the authenticity of the country and its people from the very moment you step foot in the airport.

Allowing yourself to spend enriching days in full contact with Estonian society and culture, and combining this with pedagogic encounters with schools, they will bring you an in-depth understanding of the Estonian education system.

The way in which students are educated can be a window to a deeper vision of society. This can also lead to reflection on why a society educates its people in a certain way and may encourage you to see your own education system from a refreshed perspective.

This combination of elements will help build a holistic vision of education and culture in Estonian from several enriching perspectives.

A NOTE ON THE ESTONIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

With high scoring on the PISA scale Estonia can be a suggestive destination to learn about an excellent example of achievement by schools, students, and teachers in Europe. These good results are owed to a decentralized and egalitarian education system, to their professional and motivated teachers, and to their investment in innovation and constant learning. Estonians regard their country as the "Education Nation" and feel proud of their promotion of digital skills and creativity. Skype was founded here as well as Wise and Bolt, and excellent EdTech startups like Clanbeat Education, eKool, Opic, Lingvist, or CreamApply are revolutionizing the global educational landscape. Schools have a high degree of autonomy to create their curricula and decide on the best teaching and learning methodology. Estonians have always highly regarded their education and with their school curriculum, they favor analysis, synthesis, and evaluation rather than the reproduction of knowledge. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, critical thinking, entrepreneurship, and digital competences. The ultimate goal is to get students to take an active part in their education and that may be one of the reasons why Estonia has one of the lowest levels of grade repetition in Europe.

LOCATION OF THE COURSE: Tallinn (ESTONIA)

There is much to learn from Estonia as a European country as the history of Estonia is part of the history of Europe. Today, Estonians constitute an EU member state, proud of their independence obtained in 1918, interrupted by the Soviet occupation after World War II, and restored in 1991. This return to independence is well known as The Singing Revolution as it was inspired by the centuries-old tradition of popular song festivals.

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997, Tallinn has one of the best-preserved medieval fortifications in Europe (its towers and walls maintain the appearance they had in the 14th Century). All this gives the city a medieval fairytale atmosphere in its walls and towers, and in its narrow, cobbled streets which lead to mysterious courtyards, romantic cafes, shops, and secret gardens. Tallinn is also a modern city, with modern neighbourhoods full of life with a bohemian atmosphere.

DURATION OF THE COURSE

7-day course: **40 hours, a Sunday to Saturday course.**

CERTIFICATION AWARDED

A Certificate will be awarded and will include the name of the participant, description of the course and its learning outcomes, dates and course hours.

DATES

7-day Course in Estonia

Location: **Tallinn (Estonia)**
Language of communication: **English**
Duration (days): **7-training days in Estonia**

Dates in 2026	Dates in 2027
27 September- 3 October 2026 Tallinn · 7 training days	25 April - 1 May 2027 Tallinn · 7 training days
	26 September - 2 October 2027 Tallinn · 7 training days

Note: Dates may be subject to amendment according to school calendar year of the country visited. This change, if necessary, will be informed to participants before the course confirmation.

Reference programme of the 7-day course:

The table below shows the display of our **7-day Course**:

Study Visit to Schools in Estonia Tallinn (Estonia)
7-day Course in Estonia (from Sunday to Saturday)
Sunday Registration. Fundamentals: principles, structure, framework Tools for reflection on learning & Professional Development Field learning "Contexts4Content" approach International Dimension Framework for pedagogic encounters with schools. **Monday** Education System in Estonia. Field Learning Project - *Images of Tallinn* **Tuesday** Educational Visit to School I: Educational organization & management of learning. Feedback on the educational visit to school. **Wednesday** Educational Visit to School II: Educational organization & management of learning. Field Learning Project: *The Estonian History Museum in Maarjamäe Palace.* **Thursday** Educational Visit to School III: Educational organization & management of learning. Feedback on Educational Visit to School. **Friday** Assessment of learning management in Estonia. Field Learning Projects: *Estonian Cultural Heritage: Tartu* **Saturday** Presentation of participants' learning portfolios Final reflection on learning acquired Reflection about Dissemination Strategies Evaluation of the programme.

NOTE: These programmes may be subject to amendment. Such amendment, if necessary, would be kept to a minimum, consistent with the quality and balance of the programme.

THE IRISH AMERICAN EDUCATOR INITIATIVE

Culture. Connection. Professional Learning.

The **Irish American Educator Initiative** gives teachers from across the United States the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom, gain meaningful experiences and fresh inspiration, and return home with new perspectives to share with their students. Based in Ireland, our courses connect American educators with Irish history, heritage, literature, art, and culture through engaging learning experiences inspired by Irish writers, artists, educators, and cultural representatives.

Whether you have Irish roots or simply want to discover a new culture, our programmes provide fresh ideas, meaningful connections, and practical inspiration for the classroom. Explore Ireland, deepen your professional knowledge, and bring new stories and perspectives back to your students.

As part of the initiative, teachers also have opportunities to take part in study visits to Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Estonia, Portugal, and Spain. These visits allow participants to see teachers at work, visit schools, meet local educators, and explore different approaches to teaching and learning.

By sharing ideas across cultures, American teachers can discover fresh perspectives and practical inspiration to bring back to their own classrooms.